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LWV Bulletin, January, 1995

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January, 1995

HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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Huntington, WV 25705
736-4920

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706 Ridgewood Road
Huntington, WV 25701
525-2244

January meeting update

The January 30 (Monday) meeting of the League of Women Voters, Huntington Area will begin with a light supper at 5 p.m. at Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. (Thank you Mary Anderson for providing the supper.) Board members will lead discussions of upcoming legislative issues in the U. S. Congress and the WV Legislature. Some of the general topics will be Social Policy, Taxes, Government and Natural Resources. We urge members to come and bring friends who are interested in the League. Note the change of time. We are trying to provide alternative times for meetings so that we can meet the various needs of our membership.

MU Professors will highlight 75th Anniversary Celebration

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters, the Huntington Area League of Women Voters is planning a special program, February 23, 1995, 7-9 p.m., in the Alumni Lounge at the Memorial Student Center at Marshall University.

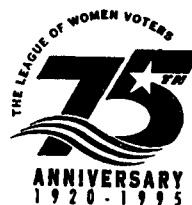
The program will feature two Marshall University professors. Dr. Francis Hensley will emphasize the origins of the League as a part of the Women's Suffrage movement, and Dr. Kelli Bean will focus on cultural and literary feminist figures who helped spur political activism.

Dr. Hensley is a member of the Marshall University History Department and a former winner of the Susan B. Anthony award given each year to an outstanding woman leader in the community. Dr. Bean, a newcomer to the English Department at Marshall, earned her doctorate at the University of Delaware with an emphasis on Modern Drama, Cultural Studies and Feminist Theory.

Following their discussions there will be time for questions and an exchange with the audience. The League is making a special effort to attract students and faculty from the Departments of English, History, Political Science and Social Studies as well as issuing an open invitation to the general public, and, of course, our own membership. If you have not had a chance to get to know such leading figures in "Herstory" as Charlotte Perkins Gilman or Elizabeth Cady Stanton or Kate Chopin or more modern figures such as Alice Walker and Susan Faludi, either through a women's studies course or your own reading, now is your chance to do so through the scholarship of two of Marshall's liveliest and most in-demand professors. And you do not even have to stand in line to sign up for a class! Mark your calendar now and come and bring a friend on February 23.

The League at 75: "A Mighty Political Experiment"

As the League of Women Voters celebrates its 75th anniversary on February 14, 1995, we have an opportunity to reflect on our past as well as to look to the future. Founded six months before ratification of the 19th amendment gave women the right



to vote, the non partisan group promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. Early League activities involved training women for their new civic role, protecting the rights of working-class women, and child welfare and child labor issues. Over the years League issues have changed to re-

fect national concerns. Issues have included advocating formation of the United Nations, freedom of speech, equal access to education, natural resources, solid waste, presidential debates, campaign finance, fiscal responsibility, arms control, reproductive choice, gun control, and health care.

In the next 75 years there are plenty of issues and challenges for the League as we continue efforts to educate and motivate citizens. According to Lucy Wilson Benson, LWVUS President, 1968-1974, "There are limits to our capabilities -- we can never do all that's on or should be on our agenda. But determining our limitations is not the same as limiting our determination."

Women's Day at the Legislature

The 17th Annual Women's Day at the Legislature is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 1995 at the State Capitol Conference Center (Building 7) and the Cultural Center. This year's keynote speaker is Barbara Baxter, first female president of the West Virginia State Bar and first Legal Aid Attorney to head a State Bar. In addition, state women leaders will present workshops for participants to learn or build political skills. A Legislative Information Fair will be held in the Great Hall of the Cultural Center featuring displays about legislative issues and women's groups. There is a \$20 registration fee which includes snacks, lunch and conference materials. Registration deadline is February 8, 1995. For more information call the WV Women's Commission, 558-0070. Nancy Taylor, 522-3361, is willing to coordinate carpooling for League members.

Calling committee created

Nancy Taylor, calling committee chair, announced that beginning this month League members will be receiving a monthly reminder call about general meetings and other activities. Thank you to callers Betty Colker, Margo Durbin, Esther Leonard, Helen Johnson, and Jan Young.

GUIDE TO THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

SENATE

President - Earl Ray Tomblin (D) Logan

Rules Committee - Earl Ray Tomblin, Chairperson; Leonard Anderson (D) Summers; H. Truman Chafin (D) Mingo; Oshel Craigo (D) Putnam; Joe Manchin III (D) Marion; William Sharpe (D) Lewis; Martha Walker (D) Kanawha; William Wooten (D) Raleigh; Donna Boley (R) Pleasants; Jack Buchalew (R) Kanawha.

Fifth Senatorial District - Cabell and Wayne

Robert "Bob" Plymale (D) PO 543, Ceredo 25507; 453-6321 (h); 453-1020 (o); Capitol 357-7854, Room 211W; 357-7854; Education; Finance; Government Organization; Health and Human Resources; Pensions (Chair); Transportation.

Thomas Scott (R) Box 3127, Huntington 25702; 525-6905; Capitol 357-7841, Room 204; Banking and Insurance; Government Organization; Health and Human Resources; Interstate Cooperation; Judiciary.

Parts of Wayne County are also in the 6th District - Senators H. Truman Chafin (D) Mingo and A. Keith Wagner (D) Mc Dowell; and the 7th District - Senators Lloyd G. Jackson, II (D) Lincoln and Earl Ray Tomblin (D) Logan.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Speaker - Robert C. (Chuck) Chambers (D) Cabell

Rules Committee - Robert C. Chambers (Chair); Robert Kiss (D) Raleigh; Joe Martin (D) Randolph; Jerry Mezzatesta (D) Hampshire; Harold Michael (D) Hardy; Roman Prezioso Jr. (D) Marion; James Rowe (D) Greenbrier; Rick Staton (D) Wyoming; Bob Ashley (R) Roane; Larry Faircloth (R) Berkeley; Margaret "Peggy" Miller (R); Dale Riggs (R) Upshur.

15th Delegate District - Cabell and part of Lincoln

Robert C. "Chuck" Chambers (D), 801 4th Ave., Huntington, 25701; 523-8419 (h); 228-M Capitol Complex, Charleston, 25305-0470; Capitol 340-3210; Speaker; Rules Chair.

Arley Johnson (D), 1702 12th Ave., Huntington 25701; 529-6245 (h); 529-1422 (o); Capitol 340-3156, Room 204-E; Industry and Labor; Judiciary; Political Subdivisions

Margaret Leach (D), 1538 Rugby Rd., Huntington, 25705; 523-3055 (h); Capitol 340-3221; Room 204-E; Education; Finance; Health and Human Resources; Roads and Transportation.

16th Delegate District - Cabell and part of Wayne

Susan Hubbard (D) 6287 Division Rd., Huntington, WV 25705; 736-0635 (h); 346-5315 (o); Capitol 340-3113, Room 204-E; Education; Health & Human Resources; Roads and Transportation

Evan Jenkins (D) 125 Ridgewood Rd., Huntington, WV 25701; 523-1365 (h); 342-1115 (o); Capitol 340-3270, Room 204-E; Constitutional Revision; Judiciary; Political Subdivisions

Jody Smirl (R) 12 Oak Brook Drive, Huntington 25705; 733-1016 (h); 429-8007 (o); Capitol 340-3147, Room 231-E; Constitutional Revision; Judiciary; Political Subdivisions

17th Delegate District - Wayne

Larry Heck (D) 2827 Lakeview Heights, Huntington, 25704; 453-2135 (h); 429-7176 (o); Capitol 340-3158; Room 223-E; Agriculture & Natural Resources; Education; Industry & Labor

18th Delegate District - Wayne

Kenneth Adkins, Jr. (D) 4334 Piedmont Rd, Huntington, 25704; 429-6189 (h); 429-2988 (o); Capitol 340-3168; Room 229-E; Banking & Insurance, Vice Chair of Insurance; Government Organization; Roads and Transportation.

Legislative information may be obtained by calling toll-free, 1-800-642-8650. Messages for legislators may also be left here. In addition, when the office is closed, a recorded report on the day's legislative action, updated when the sessions run late, is available at the toll-free number. The Governor's office number is 1-304-558-2000.

**House of Representatives
Third District**

Congressman Nick J. Rahall II
2269 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3452
FAX (202) 225-9061

Mr. Rahall's Huntington office
815 5th Ave. Rm. 152
Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 522-6425

Committee - Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittees - Surface Transportation, Railroad

104 year old recalls her voting experiences

Frankie Justice is a bright-eyed 104 year old who was born in 1891 at Proctorville, Ohio. She was interviewed at Mayes Nursing Home earlier this month. She had worked in some of the early elections in the 1920's when she lived in Logan, West Virginia with her husband, a mining engineer, and later, when she moved to Huntington with her children after the death of her husband.

Mrs. Justice cannot be precise about when she first voted, but she does vividly remember that her husband worked at the polls and that in Logan County, in the early years of this century, politics was played with a vengeance. She told of how her husband, when he discovered the other party was bold-faced in its voting of people twice, determined to put a stop to it all by himself. He stepped outside the polling place to have a word with the offenders and immediately was bashed in the head from behind. She distinctly remembers his coming home with his head wrapped in a bandage as a result. When asked, she said that her husband did not try to influence her as to whom she would support with her vote, but they were both Republicans and she remembered the name of the Democratic sheriff of Logan, Don Chafin, and the battle of Blair Mountain. She could also mimic the familiar drawl of the patrician Franklin Roosevelt when he said: "I hate 'whaaaar!'"

Mrs. Justice moved to Huntington after her only daughter was struck and killed by an automobile while crossing the street. One son was killed in the second World War and the third child, a son, was totally disabled by the war. Despite the tragedies of a long life, she is a very positive, open and friendly lady, neat and smiling. She told of going door to door with her Democratic counter-part, a Mrs. Gould, to check voter registrations. She does not remember if she voted in the first election in which women could vote when the Republican Warren G. Harding defeated the Democrat James M. Cox. She does remember voting at Enslow school and working in her precinct there.

If civic activity helps to preserve a lively mind, then Mrs. Justice is a tribute to that fact. The Huntington Area League of Women Voters in celebration of its national 75th anniversary (1920 to 1995) salutes Mrs. Frankie Justice of Mayes Nursing Home.

"Every Member Get a Member"

In 1920 the passage of the 19th Amendment doubled the number of eligible voters in the United States--and the League of Women Voters was born. What better way to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the League than by doubling its membership!

This lofty-sounding goal is attainable if each member takes responsibility for bringing in just ONE new member or bringing back a former member. The LWVUS is urging us all to adopt an "Every Member Get a Member" goal. The LWVWV Board encourages all West Virginia League members to accept this challenge.

Give a copy of this Bulletin to a prospective member and/or take the prospect to our next meeting. Imagine how loud our voice will be when there are twice as many of us!

(from an article in THE WEST VIRGINIA VOTER by Kathy Stoltz)

Welfare reform

Officials fear welfare reform could hit West Virginia hard. Through block grants, the federal government gives money to individual states. But when grants are based solely on population, states like West Virginia, with a high proportion of welfare recipients, may lose out. Furthermore, Congress has legislated more and more rules without sending money to pay for them. Proposals such as this tend to be disproportionately adverse to states like West Virginia.

In West Virginia, all state welfare recipients receive benefits for an average time of 39 months, according to Sue Sergi, director of the WV Bureau for Children and Families. The median for the state is 13 to 18 months. Only 3 percent to 5 percent of all state welfare recipients get benefits for more than 10 years. A survey of 514 West Virginia families on welfare found that most want to work but face common obstacles: a lack of jobs in the area (34%), a lack of child care (29%), a lack of transportation (26%), a wish to care for their children (26%), a lack of job skills (19%), and health problems (10%).

"No amount of job training or education will change the fact that West Virginia does not have enough jobs," a study by the Children's Institute concludes. "The best reform that could happen for welfare is to create jobs, because with jobs, the welfare rolls are always reduced," said Marion Alston, the Institute's director.

(Condensed by Beth Bauserman from an article written by Maryclaire Dale for the SUN-DAY GAZETTE-MAIL, January 8, 1995.)

The world's people have consumed as many goods, services, and therefore natural resources since 1950 as in all previous generations put together. Since 1940, US citizens alone have used up more minerals than all previous peoples combined.

(From POPULATION PRESS, FALL 1994)

Help needed to update County Book

Our "County Book" is in the process of being revised and updated. This book contains information concerning the history of the county and the present day realities. Rose Riter is serving as coordinator of this project and she needs all the help she can get! Please call her at 522-4459 if this sounds like the kind of project you would enjoy being a part of.

One Woman, One Vote

Why did so many men and women oppose passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 giving women the right to vote? One Woman, One Vote, part of Public Broadcasting's American Experience series, explores the struggles and difficulties encountered on the way to women's voting rights. The two hour program airs on WPBY-TV, Channel 33, February 15, 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Welfare reform - myths, facts and comments

MYTH: Once on welfare always on welfare. Welfare is a trap from which few escape.

FACT: More than 70% of women on welfare stay on the rolls for less than two years and only 8 % stay on for more than eight years. While many return to AFDC for a period of time within five years, due to renewed family crisis or job loss, research on intergenerational welfare use has not been able to establish that daughters of welfare mothers necessarily end up on welfare too. Some do, some do not.

COMMENT: The biggest cause of welfare seems to be poverty. It is very hard for children of poor women to escape poverty, especially in the current economy with its falling wages and rising unemployment. It's hard to work your way out of poverty. People working at minimum wage jobs earn less than \$9,000 a year. Employers pay women 70 cents for every dollar earned by men. (From BCR Reports by Mimi Abramovits and Fred Newdom.)

Calendar

- Jan. 23 LWV Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.
- Jan. 30 LWV Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, Action '95, LWVWV legislative priorities.
- Feb. 14 Women's Day @ the Legislature, will include 75th anniversary of LWV and Women's suffrage celebration.
- Feb. 15 "One Woman-One Vote", WPBY-TV, 8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 23 LWV, Htg. Area special anniversary program, MU Student Center Alumni Lounge, 7-9 p.m. (see related article).
- Apr. 28-29 LWVWV State Convention

"League can fail in its mission if it ignores its own history. Every generation has a responsibility to revisit the LWV's purpose."

Nancy Neuman

LWVUS President, 1986-1990

The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$30 individual, \$45 for two in one household.

To join, send your check to: Ann Speer, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701.

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